



Contact Bernice Cage
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Hosts Home Energy Efficiency Showcase to Increase Awareness of Critical Service for Needy Families

(Columbus – October 22, 2009) On Monday, October 26, 2009 the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is hosting its second Home Energy Efficiency Showcase. This event is being held in conjunction with IMPACT Community Action and Ground Level Solutions, Inc. as a celebration of Ohio's Weatherization Month. MORPC's Energy Efficiency Program recently received \$4.5 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the next two years. The ARRA funds are targeted towards providing free energy saving services to eligible families. The event will take place from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the home of Frank and Patricia Crane, located at 245 East Barthman Avenue in the City of Columbus. Community leaders and public officials are expected to attend. A map of the location is attached.

Thousands in central Ohio will struggle this winter to keep their homes warm. In fact, the lowest-income households in the community pay 20 percent or more of their annual incomes for energy compared with 6 percent of other households. For over 20 years, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has provided energy saving programs and services for low-income families and seniors in Franklin County. These programs and services are free to income-eligible clients thanks to funding from the Ohio Department of Development, the federal Department of Energy ARRA funding, Columbia Gas of Ohio, and American Electric Power.

Attendees will have the opportunity to see MORPC's free residential energy efficiency services in action. MORPC provided the Cranes with a full energy audit. Their home will receive compact fluorescent light bulbs, attic and sidewall insulation. A MORPC technician will use an infrared camera to provide attendees of the showcase with a behind the scenes look at a home insulation project.

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**111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org**

Betty Anderson, a recipient of MORPC's residential energy efficiency program, states, "Someone from the gas company called to question my meter reading. They asked if I was only using the hot water heater and heating my house some other way. I told them that I received a new hot water heater, new furnace and insulation for my house. It made such a big difference that they thought I had quit heating my house with gas!"

MORPC is a voluntary association of more than 47 local governments, serving as a community resource in the region by providing comprehensive planning and programming in the areas of transportation, economic development, land use, energy conservation, environment, and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

